

the spine-like hairs are white tipped, a fact not stated in the FAUNA OF INDIA volume, but mentioned by Shortridge (loc. cit.)

It is quite probable that this species feeds on ripe pepper (*Piper nigrum*) and Jackfruit (*Artocarpus* sp.) which abound in the forests of Sagar area. In captivity, one female is thriving very well on a feed of bananas and groundnut for the last twenty months. During the day the animal is sluggish and has a tendency to curl up like a hedgehog, with the bushy tail protruding. The animal is active during the night only and feeds voraciously. It is very shy and tries to hide in some corner when approached and is quite tame to handle.

VIRUS RESEARCH CENTRE,¹
POONA,
December 4, 1967.

P. K. RAJAGOPALAN

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5. OCCURRENCE OF THE REEF HERON [*EGRETTA GULARIS* (BOSC.)] IN HYDERABAD DISTRICT -

On the afternoon of June 8, 1967, I observed a slate-blue wading bird feeding at the edge of the Shamsabad (A.P.) tank in the company of 18 little egrets [*Egretta garzetta* (Linnaeus)].

It appeared to be almost exactly the same size as the egrets, and when the flock flew up, it displayed the same manner of flight, with head pulled in and legs trailing behind.

Closer examination—I was able to approach to within perhaps 40 feet—revealed the bird quite positively to be an Indian Reef Heron [*Egretta gularis* (Bosc.)], with a conspicuous white patch on its throat and bright yellow feet which flashed into prominence once when it flew directly away from me. I cannot be positive as to the colour of its legs and bill.

When I returned to the tank on the afternoon of June 17, 1967, the reef heron was still there again feeding at water's edge with several little egrets.

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I observed the bird for perhaps two hours altogether, in conditions of both full sunlight and overcast skies.

The south-west monsoon (light showers) arrived on June 7 in this area (Hyderabad Dist.), but I cannot say whether this may have had some influence in the occurrence of this western sea-coast bird so far inland.

SHAMSABAD,
HYDERABAD DISTRICT,
ANDHRA PRADESH,
July 8, 1967.

GEORGE F. NEAVOLL

6. THE FEMALE OF MOLESWORTH'S TRAGOPAN *TRAGOPAN BLYTHI MOLESWORTHI* BAKER

(With a plate)

Molesworth's Tragopan, *Tragopan blythi molesworthi* Baker, has so far been known from only two specimens, both males. The holotype was taken by Capt. A. L. M. Molesworth at Dangan La (alt. c. 2438 m.), c. 27° 11' N. 92° 1' E., Scherechopka country, south-eastern Bhutan, on 31 March 1914. Ludlow (1944)¹ procured the second specimen from Shingkar (alt. c. 2591 m.), Louri District, eastern Bhutan (c. 64 km. north-west of Dangan La, the type-locality), on 1 April 1936. Its female has so far been unknown.

During a recent ornithological survey of Bhutan undertaken jointly with Dr. Sálím Ali since 1966, I have been able to collect a female Tragopan which clearly belongs to *Tragopan blythi*, but differs from the nominate subspecies in some important details. There can, therefore, be little doubt that my specimen represents *T. b. molesworthi*, and the first known female at that (Plate).

The specimen was taken by me above the Bulfai Pass (alt. c. 2621 m.), c. 27° 14' N. 91° 31' E., Manas Valley, eastern Bhutan, on 30 March 1966. It was shot while skulking in a patch of rhododendron forest with thick undergrowth of various herbs and shrubs, and a few scattered clumps of ringal bamboo. It was a lone example busily feeding at about 8.00 hours when my presence there disturbed it.

This female specimen differs from the females of the nominate subspecies in having the whole upper plumage darker, the blackish marks being larger and deeper coloured, grey-brown markings much deeper grey and less brown, ear coverts subtipped rufous, rufous-centred cheek-

¹ LUDLOW, F. (1944): The birds of south-eastern Tibet. *Ibis* 86: 380-381.